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XR POL INDIA-PAK

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12 ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-Ø1 1026 W

R 251050Z FEB 72 FM AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3259 INFO AMCONSUL DACCA AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI AMCONSUL! KARACHI AMCONSUL! LAHORE

CRET ISLAMABAD 1833

EXDIS

SUBJ:

CONVERSATION WITH PRES BHUTTO: PEACE PROSPECTS.

ISLAMABAD 1676 (NOTAL) AND 1823 Pol 15-1 Pak

CR Be didin . Pak BHUTTO IS SEARCHING FOR SOME WAY TO PURSUE PATH OF PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WITH INDIA. HE IS WILLING TO GO TO NEW DELHI FOR TALKS WITH PRIMIN GANDHI AFTER INDIAN TROOPS HAVE LEFT BANGLADESH. HIS INITIAL OBJECTIVE WOULD BE TO DETERMINE WHETHER GOILIS COMMITTED TO A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT ON TERMS THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO PAKISTAN. IF FINDING IS POSITIVE, SPECIFIC DETAILS OF SETTLEMENT COULD THEN BE WORKED OUT . END SUMMARY.

RECENT GOI OFFER TO MEET WITH GOP OTE WITHOUT PRES CONDITIONS UNGTE TO DISCUSS OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS CAME UP HE SAID HE DURING MY DINNER MEETING WITH BHUTTO FEB 24. THOUGHT GOI HAD TIMED OFFER TO COINCIDE WITH OPENING OF US/CHINESE TALKS IN REKING. HE WOULD NOT REPLY TO IT UNTIL HAVE MADE UP HIS MIND JUST HOW TO REACT TO GO! OFFER, BHUTTO GAVE IMPRESSION HE WISHED TO GO ALONG IN SOME POSITIVE WAY. HE SAID HE WOULD LIKE TO EXPLORE THE NATURE AND DEPTH OF GOT COMMITMENT TO A PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT THAT WOULD BE ACCEPTABLE TO PAKISTAN. HE THOUGHT THIS COULD BEST DONE BY HIS HAVING PERSONAL MEETING WITH PRIMIN GANDHI

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AND HE WAS WILLING TO GO TO NEW DELHI FOR THAT PRUPOSE.

HE SAW DIFFICULTIES IN MAKING SUCH VISIT TO DELHI PRIORITO

EVACUATION FROM BANGLADESH OF REMAINING INDIAN TROOPS,

WHICH NOW SET FOR MARCH 17. (HE REITERATED EARLIER STATEMENT

TO ME THAT HE REMAINED READY TO MEET WITH MUUIB AT ANY

TIME IF SUCH MEETING COULD BE HELD WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS,

I.E. PRIOR GOP RECOGNITION OF BANGLADESH.) BHUTTO SAID HE

DID NOT ENVISAGE HIS FIRST MEETING WITH MRS. GANDHI AS

GOING INTO DETAILS OF A SETTLEMENT. IF HE DETERMINED THAT

INDIAN CONCEPT OF PEACE AND HIS OWN WERE COMPATIBLE, DETAILS:

MIGHT BETTER BE WORKED OUT IN SUBSEQUENT MEETINGS.

I NOTED THAT GOI HAD BEEN SAYING TO US THAT IT WANTED TO ARRIVE AT A DURABLE PEACE WITH PAKISTAN THAT WOULD ALLOW BOTH COUNTRIES TO DEVOTE THEMSELVES INCREASINGLY TO THEIR IMPORTANT PROGRAMS OF DOMESTIC UPLIFT. I SAID I ASSUMED THIS WAS ALSO THE GOAL OF PAKISTAN, AND WE HOPED IT WOULD BE ACHIEVED. BHUTTO SAID IT WAS NECESSARY TO HAVE PEACE, AND HE RECALLED HIS EMOTIONAL STATEMENT TO ME LAST SUMMER THAT HE NO LONGER CONSIDERED CONFRONTATION WITH INDIA TO BE A VALID POLICY. HE HOPED GOI WOULD RECOGNIZE MANY PROBLEMS HE FACES AS HE SEEKS TO MOVE TOWARD DURABLE PEACE. ACKNOWLEDGING THAT GOI MAY SEEK BOTH RECTIFICATIONS AND INTERNATIONALIZATION

OF CEASEFIRE LINE IN KASHMIR, HE SAID THESE
WILL PRESENT DIFFICULTIES FOR HIM. HE WAS, HOWEVER, READY
TO TALK WITH INDIA REGARDING A QTELLINEOF PEACE UNQTE WHICH
MIGHT, IN DUE TIME, LEAD TO A RESOLUTION OF THE LONG.
STANDING KASHMIR PROBLEM. HE ENVISAGED THAT ACCEPANCE OF
SUCH A GTELINE OF PEACE UNGTE COULD BE FOLLOWED, FOR
EXAMPLE, WITHIN FAIRLY SHORT ORDER BY THE REESTABLISHMENT
OF SOME TRADE AND TRAVEL LINKS WITH INDIA. HE REFERRED,
MEANWHILE, TO THE RETURN OF PAK POWS AS MATTER OF HIGH
PRIORITY.

4. I ALLUDED, AT THAT POINT TO BHUTTO'S LATEST MESSAGE TO PRES NIXON WHICH I NOTED HAD NOT INCLUDED ANY REFERENCE TO BHUTTO'S DESIRE FOR PEACEFUL COEXISTENCE WITH INDIA SUCH AS HE HAD EXPRESSED IN HIS MEETINGS IN WASHINGTON LAST DECEMBER. BHUTTO REMARKED THAT MY CONCERN ON THIS POINT HADBEEN BROUGHT TO HIS ATTENTION. HE WANTED TO ASSURE ME THAT THERE WAS NO CHANGE IN HIS COMMITMENT TO SEEK A

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By HRM VSD Date 1/12/88

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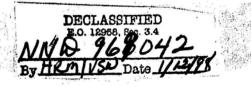
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PEACEFUL SETTLEMENT WITH INDIA. HE HAD SENT A SIMILAR MESSAGE TO CHINESE LEADERS PRIOR TO PRES NIXON. S ARRIVAL. HE WOULD NOT HAVE WANTED TO SEND ONE KIND OF MESSAGE TO CHINESE AND ANOTHER TO PRES NIXON. CONCERNS HE HAD EXPRESSED IN MESSAGE WERE REAL. BUT SO WAS HIS DESIRE FOR PEACE. SOBER.

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